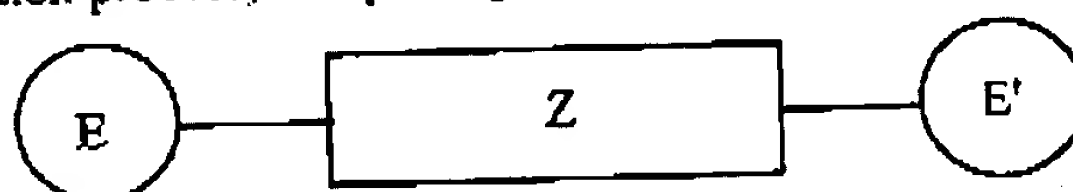


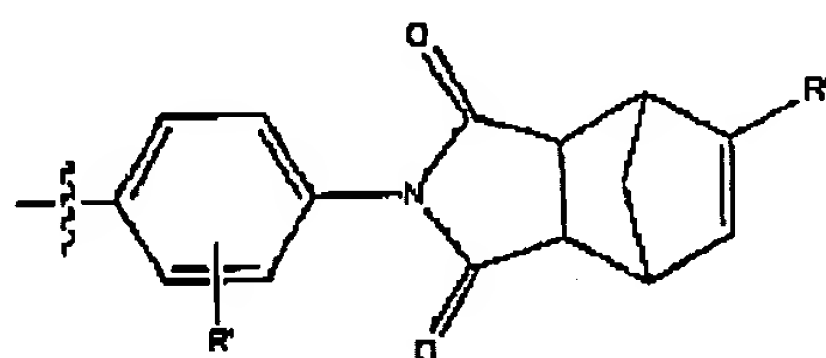
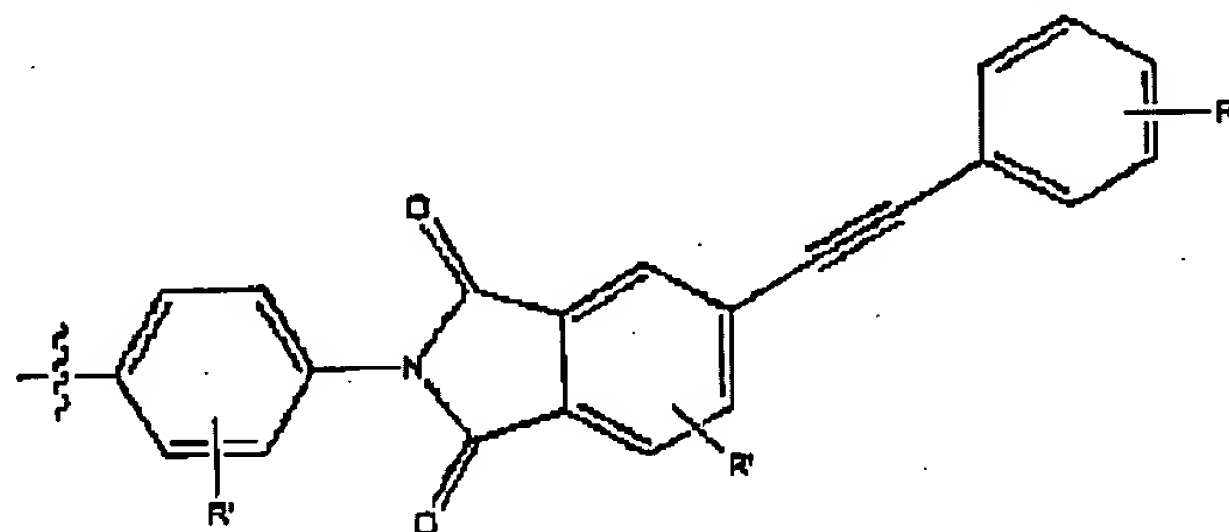
AMENDMENT**In the Claims:**

Please replace claim 11 with:

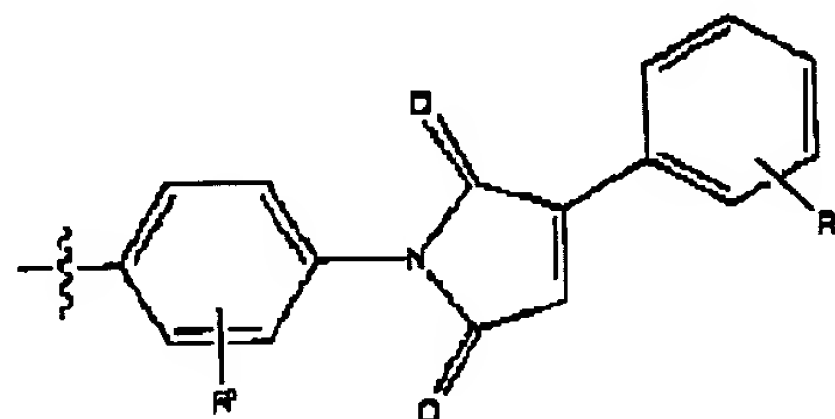
11. (Amended) An oligomer mixture with self-reactive end-caps prepared by a melt condensation process, comprising the general structure:



wherein Z is a liquid crystal backbone of the oligomer mixture selected from the group consisting of an ester, an ester-imide and an ester-amide,
wherein E and E' are selected from the group consisting of



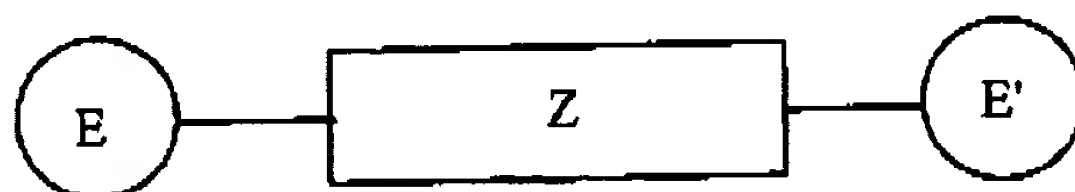
, and



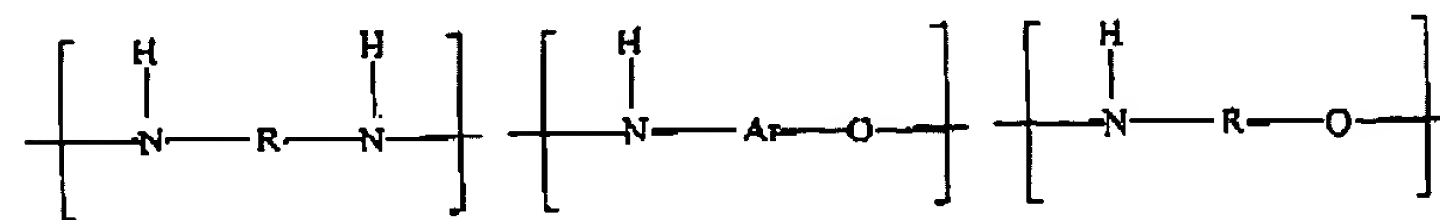
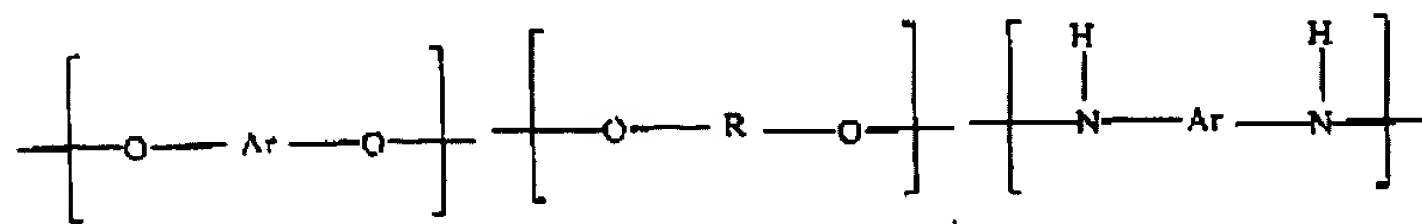
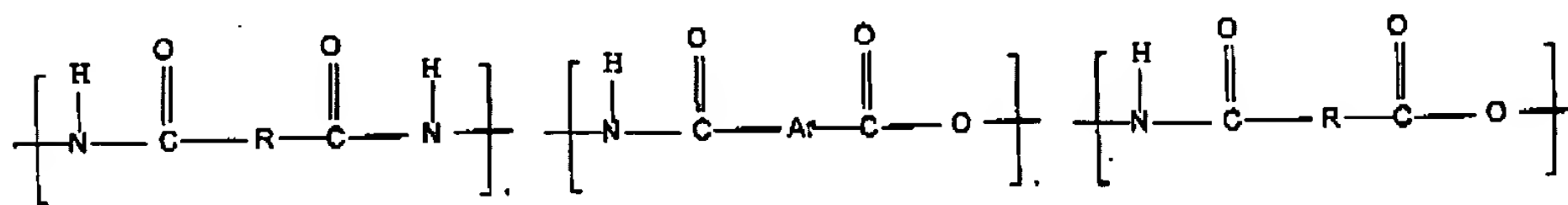
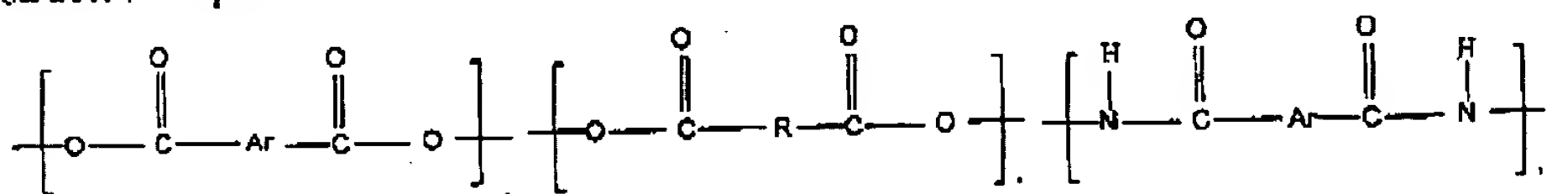
wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups containing six or less carbon atoms, aryl groups containing less than ten carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups containing six or less carbons, lower aryloxy groups containing ten or less carbon atoms, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine.

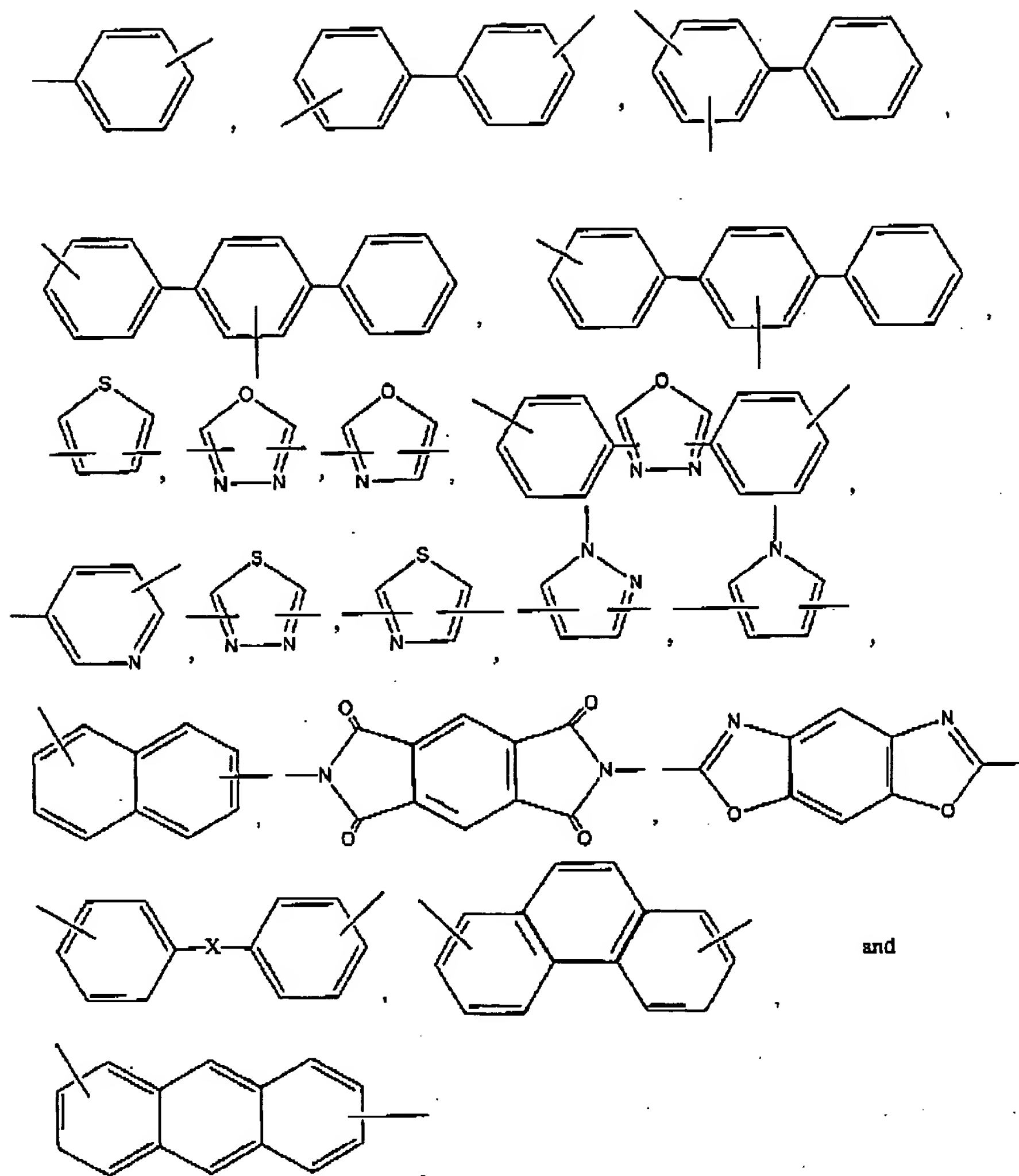
Please replace claim 12 with:

12. (Amended) An oligomer mixture with self-reactive end-caps prepared by a melt condensation process, comprising the general structure:

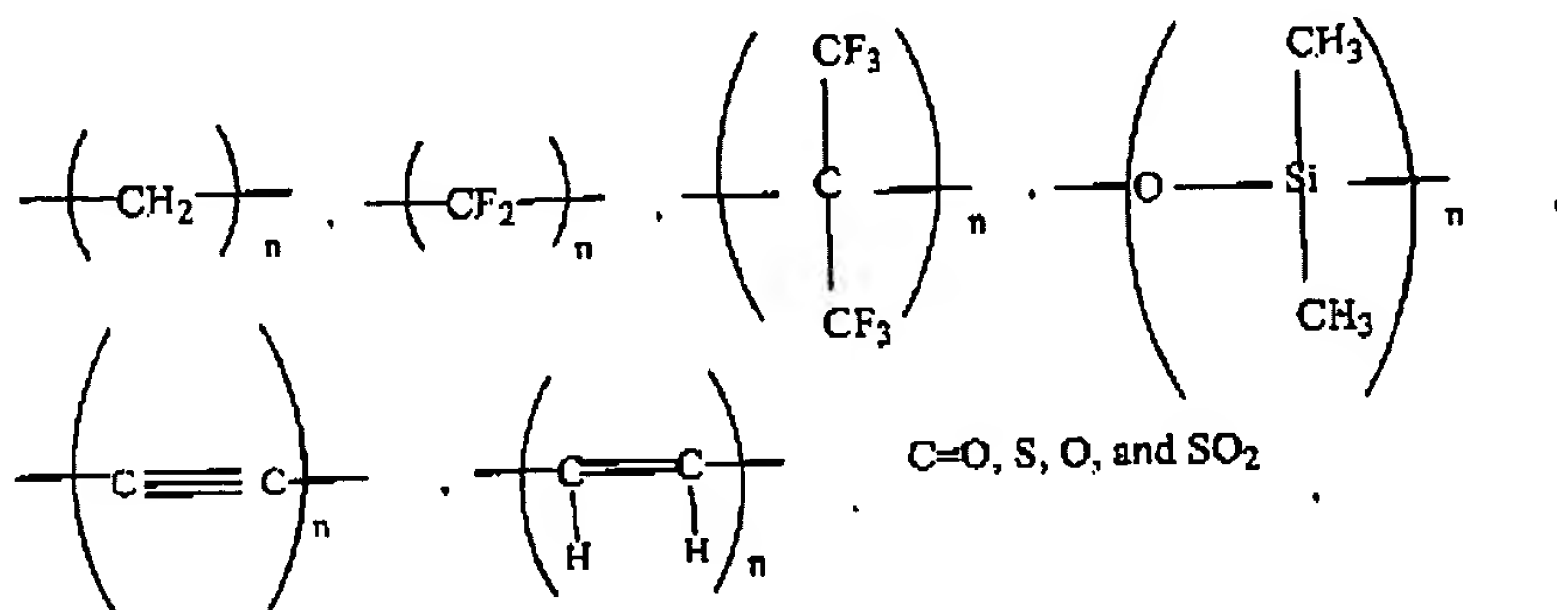


wherein Z is a liquid crystal backbone of the oligomer mixture having at least one structural repeat unit selected from the group consisting of



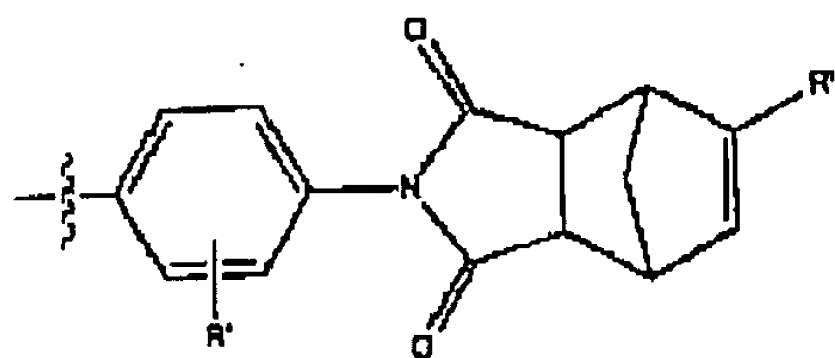
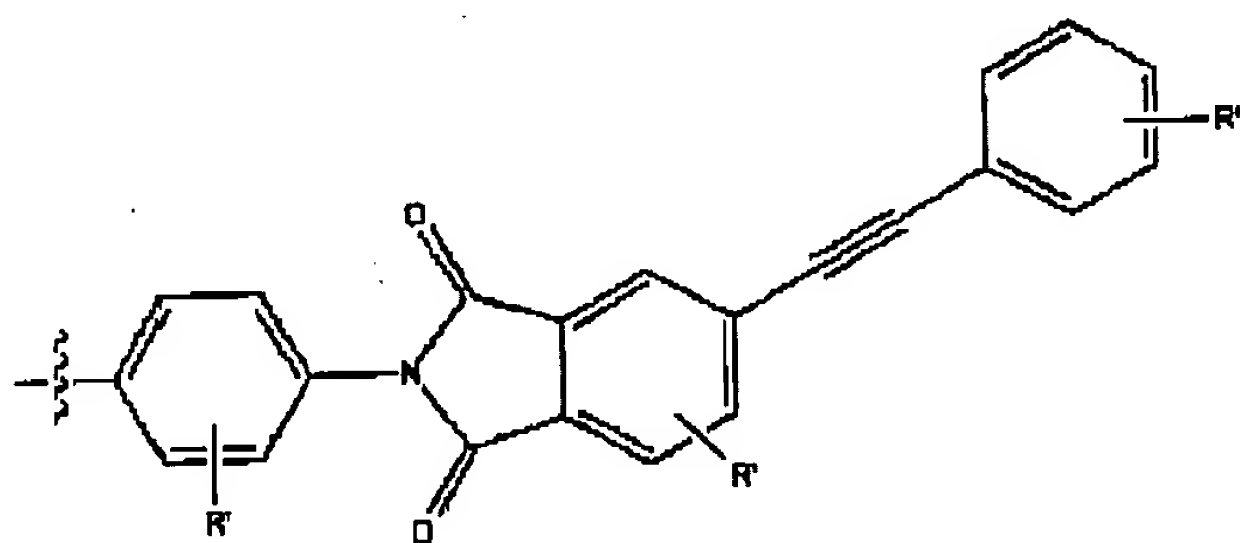


wherein X is selected from the group consisting of

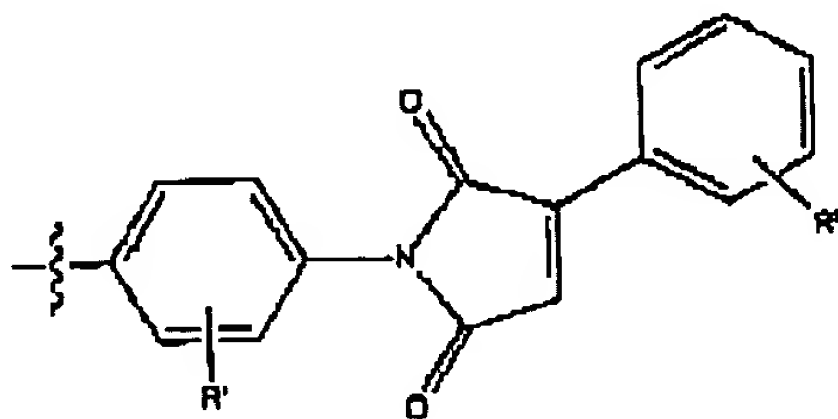


wherein n is a number less than 500,

wherein E and E' are selected from the group consisting of



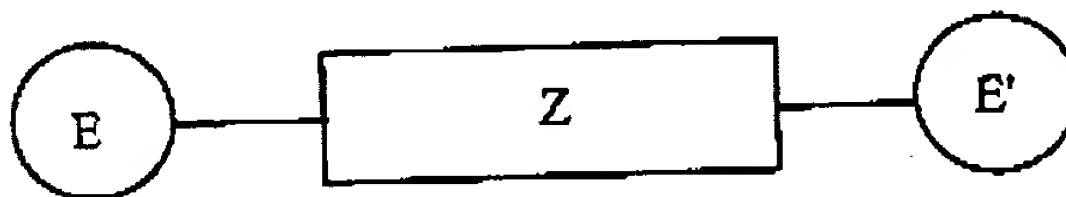
, and



wherein R' can be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups containing six or less carbon atoms, aryl groups containing less than ten carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups containing six or less carbons, lower aryloxy groups containing ten or less carbon atoms, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine.

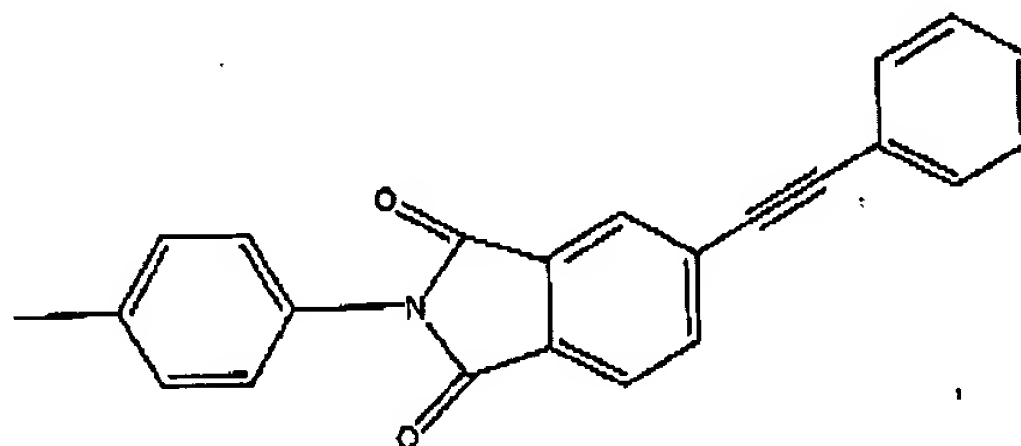
Please replace claim 18 with:

18. (Amended) An oligomer mixture with self-reactive end-caps comprising the general structure

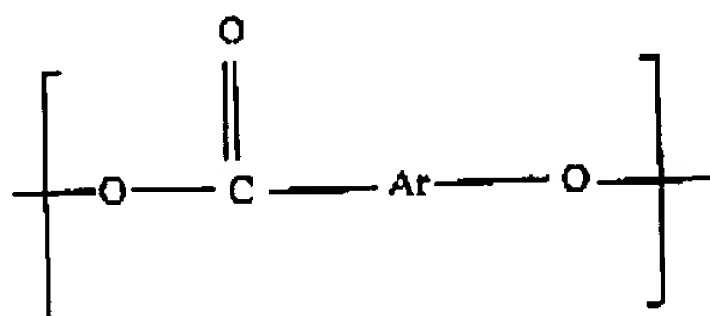


wherein

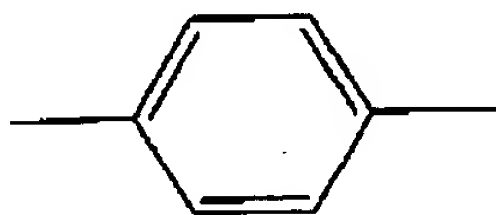
E and E' are



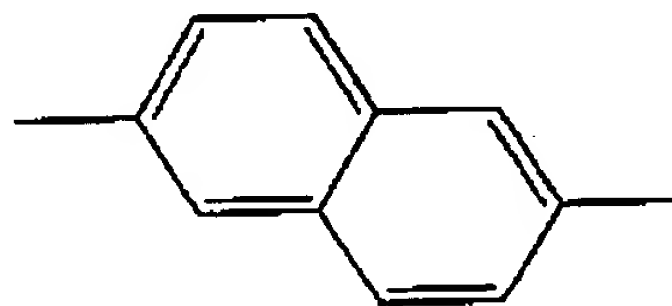
Z is



wherein Ar is

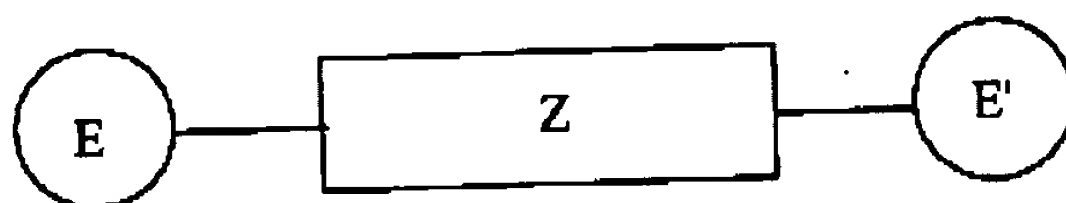


and

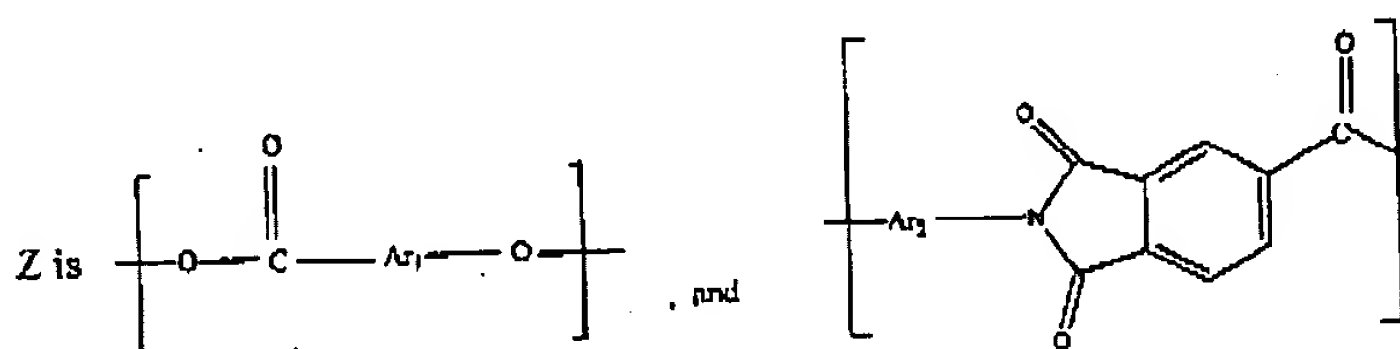
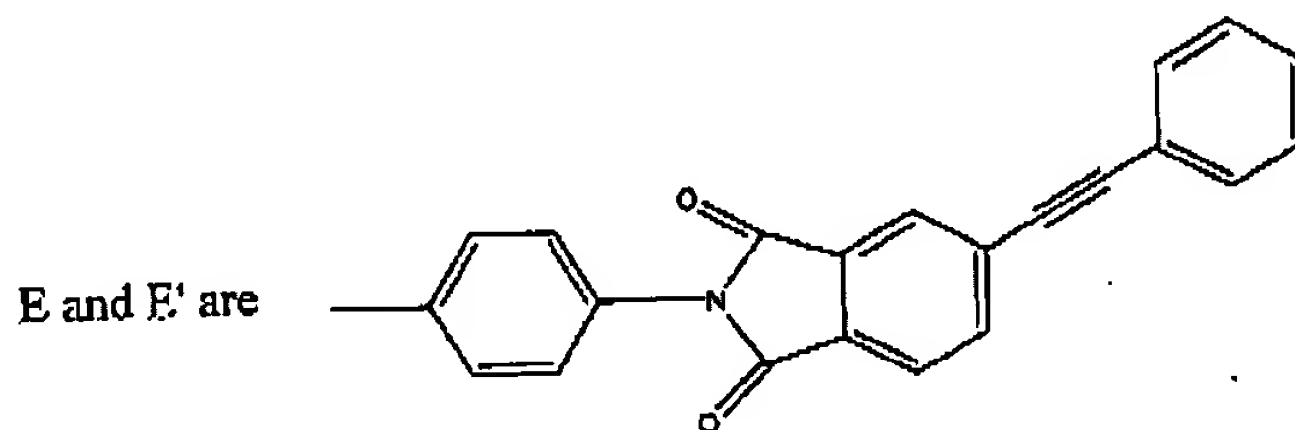


Please replace claim 19 with:

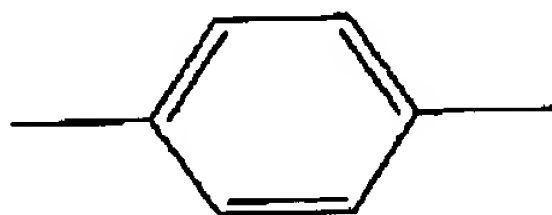
19. (Amended) An oligomer mixture with self-reactive end-caps comprising the general structure



wherein



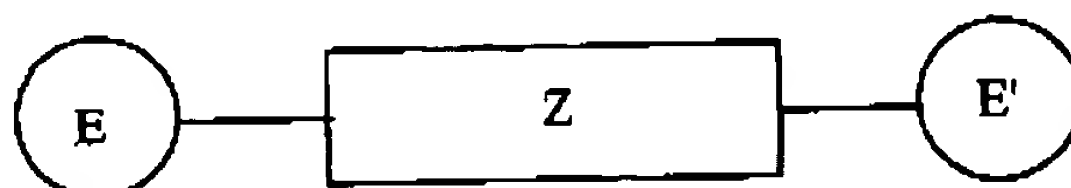
wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are



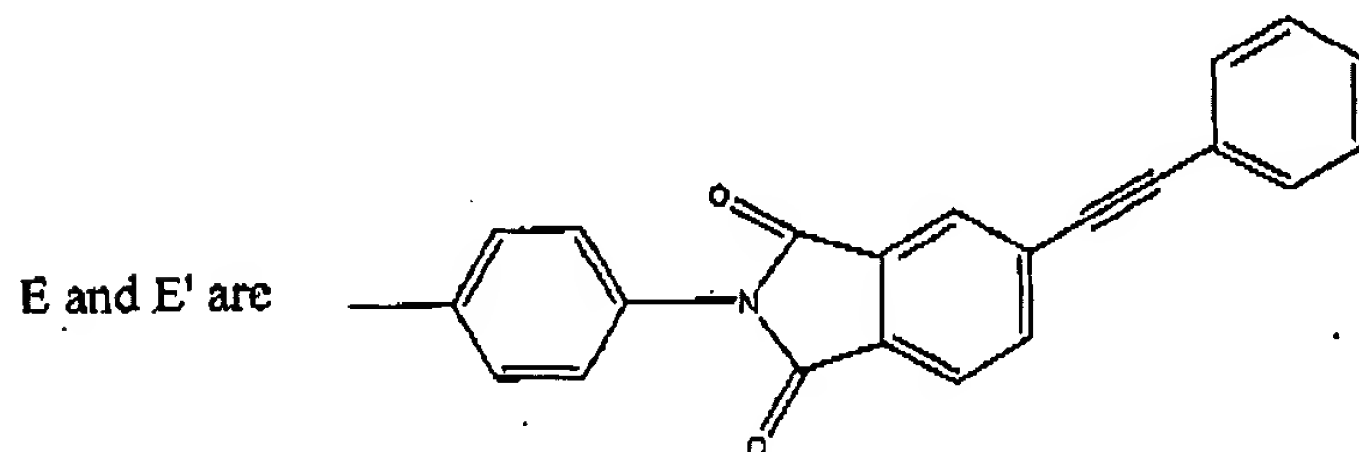
Please replace claim 20 with:

20. (Amended) An oligomer mixture with self-reactive end-caps comprising the general structure

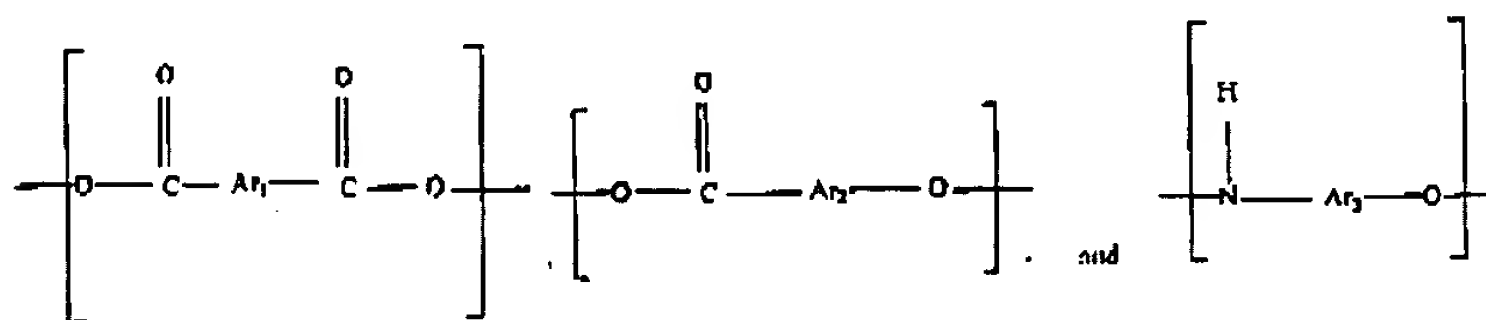
(continued)



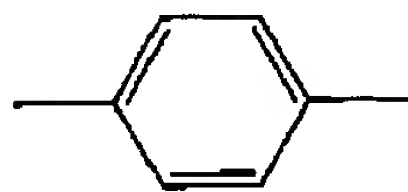
wherein



and Z is selected from the group consisting of



where Ar₁ and Ar₃ are



and Ar₂ is

